been completed except one Road Over Bridge (R.O.B.) which is being executed by Railways. The R.O.B. is likely to be completed by September, 2002.

(c) and (d) For completion of balance portion of Kollam by-pass it has been planned that the road work is to be taken up from budgetary resource and bridge work is to be taken up from budgetary resource and bridge works through private participation. The State PWD was requested in December, 2001 to examine the viability of this proposal. The response of State PWD is awaited.

**National Highways No. 31A in Sikkim**

1014. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways No. 31A which is the only life-line linking Sikkim to the rest of the world needs to be broadened and carpeted in view of the landslides and other such natural calamities; and

(b) if so, the scheme prepared for it and the time-frame laid down for it** early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) National Highway 31A in the State of Sikkim is being developed and maintained by Border Roads Organisation.The Highway has already been widened to intermediate lane. The scheme for widening to two lane is yet to be finalized and, therefore, it is too early to indicate the timeframe for its completion.

**Improving NH No. 52**

1015. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the details of the action plan finalised to improve, widen and strengthen National Highways No. 52 during the current financial year and during the Tenth Plan indicating plan, allocations and target set including construction of bridge at Choukighat to reduce the distance by 50 kms.?